

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 The present invention relates to a patient care
and communication system which utilizes a central processing
system and a plurality of remote stations electrically
connected to the central processing system to facilitate
5 visual and data communications. Each remote station
includes telephone circuitry which is connected to a private
branch exchange for telephone communications between
stations. In addition, the private branch exchange is
connected to a telephone exchange and a plurality of
10 telephones for facilitating telephone communication
therebetween. The central processing system facilitates the
visual and data communications between the plurality of
remote stations, and includes a system for determining which
of the plurality of remote stations are transmitting the
15 visual and data communications and which of the plurality of
remote stations are to receive the visual and data
communications. The central processing system also includes
a system which establishes a communication link between the
transmitting stations and the receiving stations. The
20 remote stations include a processing system which also
facilitates the visual, data and telephone communications
and a display for displaying the visual communications. The
present invention also includes a staff and/or patient
locator system, in which each remote station includes an
25 infrared receiver that receives infrared transmissions from
a portable transmitter worn by a staff member or patient.
The infrared transmissions include identity information
associated with the person wearing the transmitter. The
identity information is then transferred to the central
30 processing system which determines the identity and location
of each person wearing a portable transmitter.